

GOMEZ'S REMARKABLE PRIMER FOR PATRIOT CUBANS.

The Great Cuban Patriot Who Has Been Making History Is Now Making Books.

Gomez has written a book. Though scarcely more than a pamphlet, it is remarkable, both because it was written in the spare moments of camp life by perhaps the most extraordinary man of the decade, and because it is the first work of consequence that has ever been turned out by one of the Government presses of the Cuban Republic.

In the forests of Oriente, the province where Spanish troops remain practically in a state of siege, in the larger towns, is the principal publishing office of the Cuban Government. Here government orders and pamphlets, and a weekly newspaper called the "Cubano Libre" are published under the management of Daniel Fajardo Ortiz, a brother of Mr. Desiderio Fajardo Ortiz, of this city, the distinguished Cuban political writer.

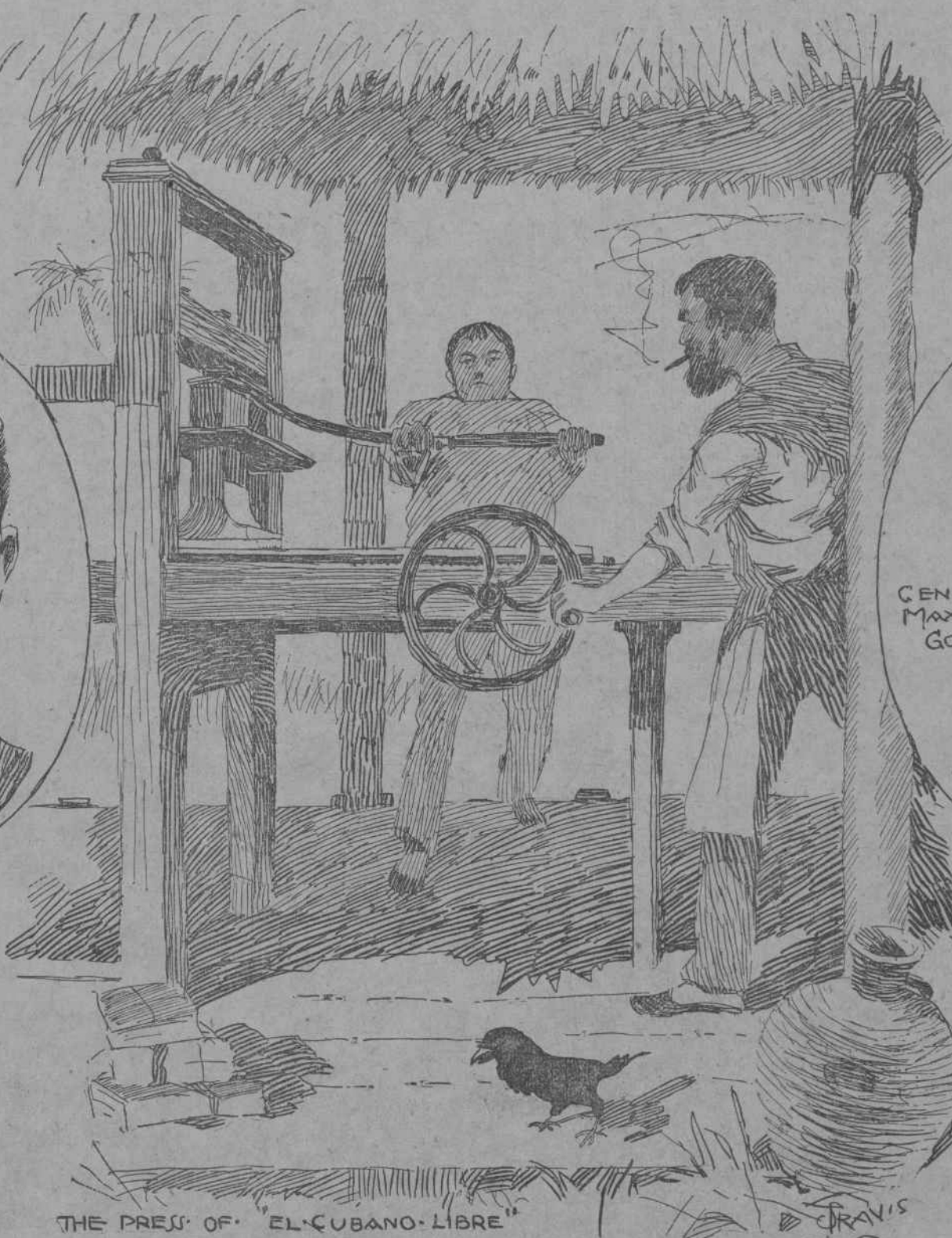
The book is entitled "My Escort," and is a pattern of typographical neatness. It is a story of the invasion, when Gomez and Maceo led a skirmish line of raw Cuban recruits from Oriente to Pinar del Rio, through a country guarded by nearly 200,000 disciplined Spanish troops.

Gomez explains the object of the work in his introduction as follows: "The history of the war for the emancipation of an enslaved people would fill volumes. Every man has left his history written in blood. Of those who took the field at the beginning of the revolution, one is disabled, one

This speech made such an impression in the minds of the escort that they continued the march westward. When Gomez heard that Campos had thrown a heavy line of troops on the boundary of Camaguary he said to General Boreto, "We are saved. The fact that they try to Inter-



DANIEL FAJARDO ORTIZ



THE PRESS OF "EL CUBANO LIBRE"

The Cuban Republic's Government Printers.

The printing establishments of the Cuban Government are concealed in the forests or in the almost inaccessible fastnesses among the mountains. Only the employees and their families are allowed to visit them, though this was once the privilege of a Journal correspondent. The principal one is that of the "Cubano Libre," in Oriente. There is another in Puerto Principe, near Najasa, one in Santa Clara, and one in Pinar del Rio. The newspapers, official announcements and pamphlets turned out in these retreats are loaded on pack mules and packed off to Cuban forces in the neighborhood. At the office of the "Boletín de Guerra," near Najasa, until recently, when it was replaced by one of newer make, a very ancient press was used, which, when the editions of the papers were not under way, did duty as a cheese press.

was not good, and as there seemed a likelihood of further delay, I moved forward into Las Villas, already despairing of success. This was in the last days of October, 1895.

"By this time General Boreto and Serdan Sanchez had successfully landed their expedition near Tunas, Sancti Spiritus. The only force I had with me, for I did not wish to weaken Maceo's force in Camaguary, was my own escort of a hundred men. I cautioned the Captain of it to find out the sentiment of his men, because I had given my oath not to turn back until I had reached the most western provinces, and I wished to be accompanied only by resolute men.

"General," answered my captain, with the pride of a Camaguaryan, these men will follow you anywhere. They are prepared to march at the hour you say wherever you will lead them."

"On the last day of October I crossed without difficulty the Jucaro Moron trocha into the district of Sancti Spiritus. While waiting for Maceo I made a campaign of continuous marches and countermarches, with the object of trying out the enemy without consuming our ammunition. We had the fortune to capture Fort Pelayo with fifty rifles and 23,000 rounds of ammunition. After that I skirmished round about the city of Sancti Spiritus and besieged the fort of Rio Grande. I wished to be especially active, so as to attract the attention of the Spaniards and leave an easy passage of the trocha open to Maceo, whom I knew to be advancing at the head of his division of the invading army. We were now well under way and ready to move into Las Villas. The activity and heroism of General Maceo did the rest. Without firing a shot, Maceo crossed the trocha on the 29th of December and we met at San

Juan and matured our plans for the invasion.

"The first step was taken and the most difficult part of the work, the beginning, was accomplished. Any hesitation, a step backward, a defeat at this time would have been extremely dangerous for the revolution. We had to march forward, boldly and continuously, trusting in fortune and our knowledge of the country.

"On the 24 day of December we met the enemy at La Reforma, on the 3d day we were victorious at Aguara, on the 9th at Casa de Tejas, on the 11th and 12th at Boca del Toro. Afterward came Mal Tiempo, Callimete, Calleso and Guira de Melena.

"Spain began to feel the violence of our arms, and her short-sighted politicians began to suspect that the revolution was a reality. As for myself, I felt assured that the independence of Cuba would be won, and that Spain could no longer stifle the flame that had spread through the country. The struggle has continued nevertheless, but this has been necessary in order that we may finally arrive at the proper and honorable peace that ought to exist between Cuba and Spain.

"I do not propose to relate the details of the rough, almost daily combats that marked the invasion of 1895-96, in all of which my allies-de-camp and the men of my escort were to be seen in the front ranks. It is only necessary for me to give a list of my personal staff and of my escort, including the names of those who have fallen, and a list of the wounds received by those who are still with me. Many have fallen, but they have been worthily replaced by volunteers. Very few I have chosen myself. In this manner the ranks of the brilliant train of patriotic young men

who have been at my side in the hour of danger and who follow me to-day have been continually renewed. Let me mention for a moment some of the most striking characters among my followers:

"Miguel Cassa (Miguellito) is a boy fourteen years old, who has been with me from the first. He has the health and the disposition of a grown man, and there is no action of all the hard ones that we have seen where he was not in the front ranks, although sometimes I have desired him to go to the rear.

"Bernabe Bosa, Captain of the escort, who ranks as Colonel, has been promoted from a Lieutenant for gallantry in the field. He is thirty-eight years of age, married, energetic in character, and of amiable disposition, beloved by the soldiers. He is a splendid rider and swordsman, and a sure shot, a man who appears well in both civil and military life. He is of great use to me as an interpreter of English. He saw service first in the year '98, under such generals as Rooze, Benitez and Morejones. He can never forget the tragic end of his father and the sufferings of his mother, who was obliged to witness the murder of her two brothers. It is a sad family history, but almost all the Cubans have a similar one. There are very few women in Cuba whom Spain has not caused to shed tears—very few who do not mourn a son, a husband or a lover, for this is a country that Spain has never loved, but has always wished to hold in bondage for lust and brutality, as a Sultan holds a slave."

"Among other honorable names of my escort are Vega, Espinosa, Peria, Salas, Rosario—all distinguished military heroes.

"We do not know, nor can we judge, if we are at the end or only half way on our journey. What must be, must be. All of

The Secret Press in the Cuban Woods Where His Modest Little Volumes Are Put Forth.

my men know the sad experience of carrying an old and faithful companion of arms, covered with blood and dust, from the field to leave him hidden from the enemy in a dark grave in a forest.

"Only another hero has fallen for liberty," they say, and turn again to a work on

ment. They are simple little exercises, as follows:

"My papa is in the rank of the liberating army. He fights against Spain to see Cuba free. I love liberty."

"Listen to the volleys and shots of cannon. It is the Cubans, who are attacking the enemy. Victory will be ours. Long live Cuba."

"The prefect fur-nish-es the government supplies so that there will never be lack of food for the army. What a lot of corn! Look, there is a fine mel-on patch."

"Ca-chi-ta is washing the clothes of her cousin, who is a cor-po-ral. She has an uncle, who is a cap-tain. The coun-try must be de-fend-ed. I am going to be a soldier."

The primer provides for the swift intellectual advance of its readers. A few pages brings the pupil to stiffer and more complicated examples of Castilian prose. The child is introduced to the harder words in advance, so that he may get his bearing and sail ahead with confidence. For example:

Rear Guard. Reg-l-men. Caval-ry. Im-ped-ment-s. "What a lot of cavalry. It is a Cuban

Cu-ba pa-ra
con-tra a-mo
li-ber-tad E-jér-ci-to

Mi pa-pá es-tá en las fi-las
del E-jér-ci-to Li-ber-ta-dor. El
pe-lea con-tra Es-pa-ña pa-ra ver
a Cu-ba li-bre. Yo a-mo la li-ber-tad.

mu-chas es-tán
a-ta-can cu-ba-nos
o-yen-do e-ne-mi-go
Se es-tán o-yen-do mu-chas
des-car-gas y ti-ros de ca-ñón.
Son los cu-ba-nos que a-ta-can al
e-ne-mi-go. La vic-to-ria se-rá
nues-tra. ¡Vi-va Cu-ba!

Specimen Page of the Primer.

which the entire world looks with anxiety—the conquest of Cuban liberty—which will complete the freedom of the new world and will justify its title of free America."

Above is a fac-simile of the title page of the very first primer printed in a publishing house of the Cuban Government. The author is Senor Daniel F. Ortiz, over by Mr. Daniel Ortiz. Like Gomez's book, it is a little, blue-covered pamphlet. It was written by order of the Civil Government of Cuba, and is a textbook for the primary schools that have been established throughout the east end of the island, where the country is not subjected to the raids of Spanish guerrillas and regulars.

By law, every citizen is obliged to send his children to the public school, despite any notion he may have of his own, or instruction at home. Every district, or prefecture, has a school for boys and a separate school for girls, except in some cases, where it becomes necessary to combine for both sexes.

The little book begins with an alphabet, the vowels and simple exercises in the spelling of words of one and two syllables. These are followed by exercises in reading, which tell the story of the Cuban war and show how the little Cuban children are educated up to live under a free govern-

regiment. Look! There is the General's escort. The impedimenta goes in the centre, and there are forty file for the rear guard. The flag of Cuba is blue, white and red."

"When the pupil is able to read the above exercise he is prepared to go deeper into literature, as:

"Let us go to the camp and you will see how many soldiers there are. In the advance guard is a sergeant of the guard to give warning when the enemy comes down upon them with volleys of shot. Peter is acting as sentinel."

"The people are going to the coast. An expedition has arrived, and they are going to receive the supplies. The Cubans abroad are sending many arms from Key West. They have sent a big cannon. Long live free Cuba!"

"John and Peter are very good friends. They come home together from school, and they never quarrel. They are picking mangoes for themselves and their little sisters. How delicious are the mangoes! In Cuba there are many delicious fruits."

To complete the work, there is a study in numerals, an explanation of all the simpler terms of geography, and a topographical study of Cuba, with a list of its principal cities and the provinces into which the Provisional Government has divided it.

Title Page of General Gomez's Book.

has a broken limb, another a pierced breast and nearly all bear traces of the enemy's bullets. I would gladly write the history of every man in the army that I have commanded, but as this is not easy for me, I limit myself to a sketch of my escort for the sake of doing honor to those who composed it."

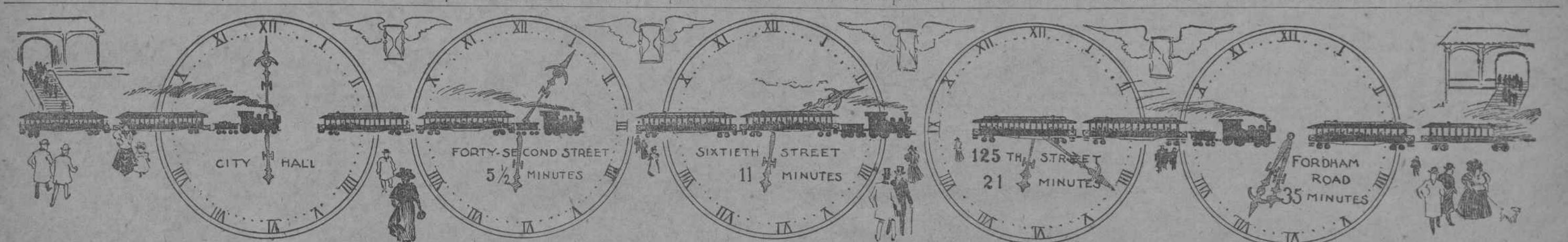
The first chapter tells of Gomez's experience directly after landing in the province of Santiago de Cuba. The long marches on the banks of the Cauto river, under the heavy showers of the rainy season, with little means of securing food or fresh horses, and pursued constantly by the enemy. The meeting with Jose Marti at Dos Rios, the skirmish in which Marti fell, and the meeting with Maceo. Gomez was ill, without troops and with little ammunition. He travelled with small escort, dodging the troops that were sent by Martinez Campos to head him off. His escort was then composed of scarcely a hundred recruits from Oriente, and they were unwilling to leave their own province. Desertions were frequent from the ranks, rendering his position perilous. In this crisis General Boreto addressed his men, saying "General Gomez is a foreigner who comes to aid us in a sacred war, and now you are ready to abandon him when he is sick and pursued by the enemy. If you do this you will be cowards before the whole world."

cept us shows that Camaguary is ready to take arms and that our friends are waiting to receive us." So, on the 5th day of June he passed the borders of Puerto Principe, and a few days later met the patriots Cisneros Lope Recio and Dr. E. S. Agramonte. Then began a series of triumphs. Recruits poured in from every side, and the revolution was fairly under way.

He reorganized his escort from among the sturdy herdsmen of Camaguary, who follow him to-day.

"With my general staff as a nucleus," he writes, "I began to organize the army and to prepare a plan of campaign. It appeared to me that it was necessary to extend the revolution throughout the entire island, though the elements that we had to count on were little or none. The plan of campaign consisted in a formal invasion of the Western provinces, and to execute it we had at our command a few hundred rifles and very little ammunition.

"What delayed matters was that I was not able to get the army of Oriente on the march westward until after the battle of Paralelo, won by General Antonio Maceo against Martinez Campos. Even after this a further delay was necessary to care for the wounded and reorganize those troops, as badly supplied as they were armed. At this time the health of Maceo



RAPID TRANSIT WITH A WHIRRI—CITY HALL TO HARLEM IN TWENTY-ONE MINUTES.

From the City Hall to Harlem in twenty-one minutes! No more crowding in dimly lighted elevated cars! No more crawling along at the rate of eight miles an hour! That is what is promised to the Greater New York in the near future. It is a promise that should bring pleasure to the thousands who live in the uptown dis-

tricts and who have for years patiently borne with the primitive transit for which the greatest city on the Western continent is more or less famous.

It will be rapid transit with the emphasis on the first word. Things will go with a whizz, and before the traveller will realize it he or she will be within sight

of home or business as the case may be.

Chief Engineer W. B. Parsons, of the Rapid Transit Commission, is responsible for the statement and the schedule, and while he will not take his oath as to the absolute correctness of the time table, he yet asserts that when put into operation it will not vary much from his esti-

mate.

According to his schedule, it will take five and a half minutes to reach Forty-second street from the City Hall.

To go to One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street will take twenty-one minutes against forty-five as at present.

To reach the North Side of the Harlem River will take twenty-four minutes, while

Fordham road can be reached in thirty-five minutes.

A traveller can get to Sixtieth street via the East Side in just eleven minutes. To One Hundred and Thirty-fifth street will take twenty-two minutes.

But it is not alone the travelling public that will be benefited by rapid transit. Real estate in the upper part of the town

will boom as it has never boomed before, for there will be a demand for realty in the affected district hitherto unequalled.

When one can get to Harlem in twenty-one minutes and with rents so much lower than further downtown, it is but natural that tenants should seek homes further up.

Thus it will be seen that rapid transit will benefit all the city-traveller, property-owner and workingman.